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FOR WHA/CCA AND SCA/INS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/06/2010 TAGS: <u>KDEM PHUM PREL EUN CU IN</u>

SUBJECT: INDIA AND DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE CUBAN PEOPLE

REF: A. STATE 45792

1B. STATE 46997

Classified By: PolCouns Ted Osius for Reasons 1.4 (B, D)

(C) In response to Ref A, Post assesses that, given India's traditional Non-Aligned Movement ties to the Castro regime, as well as the recent spate of hypersensitivity on the part of Indian officials and the Indian media to the perception of USG "interference" in India's foreign policy, active engagement encouraging Indian support for "Day of Solidarity with the Cuban People" would be counterproductive at this time. Poloff discreetly contacted Ministry of External Affairs Director (Americas Division) Vani Rao to inquire whether the Indian government would be amenable to promoting the concept. Rao discouraged any public activities in India by the USG which could be misconstrued by anti-American forces in India to add further animosity to the highly sensitive public debate as of late.
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